(x) Rigorous monitoring of production, transportation and supply of coal by an Inter-Ministerial Group on weekly/fortnightly basis to review and resolve the constraints.

(d) and (c) Besides other measures, the following measures have been taken exclusively for increasing of electricity generation in Maharashtra:

(i) Capacity Addition of about 4750 MW is proposed in the State Sector in Maharashtra during the 11th Plan.

(ii) Revival of the Dabhol Power Project under the aegis of Ratnagiri Gas and Power Private Ltd. with facilitation through an Empowered Group of Ministers.

(iii) The establishment of Mauda Thermal Power Project (1000 MW), the first NTPC Project in the State with maximum share to the Home State.

Power projects in Maharashtra

254. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Maharashtra Electricity Regulatory Commission (MERC) has cleared two power projects of 2640 MW in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, by when these projects are likely to be started;

(c) the total expenditure involved in these projects; and

(d) to what extent these power projects will help in meeting the shortage of power in Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

U.S. patent of yoga asanas

255. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the U.S.Patents and Trade Mark Office granted patent on yoga asanas (postures) in America:

(b) if so, whether the U.S. Patent Office can grant patent rights, when yoga is India's traditional knowledge and as per conventions, traditional knowledge cannot be patented;

(c) whether Government have taken up this matter with the US administration; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) A search of the database of the US Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) indicates that no patent has been granted on yoga postures *per se*.

(b) Patents granted to products, processes or methods, which are already in the domain of public knowledge, are not legally valid. As yogic postures are well known for ages, no valid patent can be granted to yogic postures.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Training for SCs and STs

† 256. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any provision to impart training through industries to the pepole belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the country, in order to increase their entrepreneurship and efficiency; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and to what extent people belonging to these categories have been benefited?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT: (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) and (b) In pursuance of the commitment contained in the National Common Minimum Programme to initiate a dialogue with industry and other organisations to fulfill the aspirations of SC and ST youth, consultations have been held with representatives of Apex Industries Associations. The Confederation of Indian Industry and the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry in India in their joint report— "Concrete Steps by Indian Industry on Inclusiveness for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes"— have volunteered to take steps for enhancing the employability of Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes through education, training and entrepreneurship development.

Norms for aid to NGOs and State Governments

257. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT to pleased to state:

(a) what are the norms for eligibility for financial aid to NGOs and State Governments;

(b) whether any monitoring Committee have been formed by Government to look into the functioning of various NGOs;

(c) if so, whether such Committee have been able to detect the malfunctioning of NGOs; and

(d) if so, the number thereof and whether action have been taken against these defaulting NGOs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) Financial assistance is provided to the Non-Governmental Organizations subject to fulfilment of the following criteria:

(i) Non profit making society registered under an appropriate Act with an appropriate administrative structure and a duly constituted managing/ executive committee.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi